

In the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in this application.

1 (currently amended). A method for soft tissue augmentation wherein said method comprises the placement-injection of cylindrical, ~~spherical, or doughnut-shaped~~ pellets, wherein said pellets have a hollow conduit running therethrough, wherein said cylindrical pellets are injected in a location where augmentation is desired such that, upon placement of the pellets in the desired location, capillaries or fibrous tissue grow into the hollow conduits thereby preventing migration of the pellets, wherein said pellets are made from an inert physiologically non-reactive material selected from the group consisting of polyethylene, polypropylene, nylon, Dacron, silicone, and polyurethane; and wherein the pellets are smooth, have an outer diameter of 200  $\mu$ m to 400  $\mu$ m, an inner diameter of 100  $\mu$ m to 200  $\mu$ m, a length of 300  $\mu$ m to 500  $\mu$ m, a maximum ratio of inner diameter to outer diameter of 0.9 and are sufficiently uniform in dimension so that the pellets cannot nest one inside another; and wherein said method is used to treat gastroesophageal acid reflux, urinary incontinence, velopharyngeal insufficiency, or to re-position a vocal cord.

2 - 4 (cancelled).

5 (currently amended). The method, according to claim [[4]]1, wherein said particles are made from polytetrafluoroethylene.

6 - 7 (cancelled).

8 (original). The method, according to claim 1, wherein said method is used for correction of velopharyngeal insufficiency.

9 - 19 (cancelled).